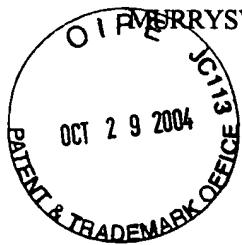


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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Application of: Walter Aupperle, et al.

Serial No.: 10/622012 Filing Date: 17/07/03 Docket: MB 375

Title: EXHAUST GAS RECIRCULATION SYSTEM FOR AN INTERNAL COMBUSTION ENGINE

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Hon. Commissioner for Patents  
2004  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

October 27,

SIR:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT - SECTION 1.97 (b)

Under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. Section 1.56, and in accordance with 37 C.F.R. Sections 1.97 and 1.98, applicants' representative hereby submits U.S. Patent & Trademarks Office Form PTO-1449. Copies of the references cited therein are submitted for consideration in the examination of the above- referenced patent application. It is respectfully requested that they be made of record, along with whatever references the Examiner may find in the course of a search, should the Examiner consider them material to the subject application.

In accordance with Section 1.97(b) (3), it is believed that this Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits.

In accordance with Section 1.97(e) (1), the undersigned hereby certifies that each item of information contained herein was cited for the first time in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three (3) months prior to the filing of this Statement.

The references have been cited in the German Search Report.

Only WO 99/09307 A1 has been marked "X" by the Examiner as being considered to be pertinent.

However this reference does not disclose that in an exhaust-gas recirculation system of an internal combustion engine with an exhaust-gas recirculation line extending between an exhaust duct and an inlet duct, wherein the exhaust-gas recirculation line includes an exhaust-gas recirculation valve and also at least one first exhaust-gas cooler, at least one second exhaust-gas cooler is provided in the exhaust gas recirculation line and the exhaust-gas recirculation valve is arranged between the first exhaust-gas cooler and the second exhaust-gas cooler so that only the first exhaust gas cooler is subjected to the high exhaust gas pressure effective during engine braking when the exhaust gas recirculation valve is closed.

Respectfully Submitted,

*K. Bach*

Klaus Bach  
Registration No. 26,832

EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.